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The First Decade of the Australian Commonwealth: a Chronicle of Contemporary Politics, 1901-1910. By HENRY GYLES TURNER. (Melbourne: Mason, Firth, and McCutcheon. 1911. Pp. xv, 320.)

MUCH of this history is concerned with the rise and fall of cabinets. This is inevitable under the system of responsible government which prevails in Australia. The book, however, has a special interest for Americans. In the first place, it describes the beginnings of a country whose constitution, except as respects the system of responsible government, is copied from our own. In the second place, it deals with political movements which are in actual and powerful operation in Australia, and which are beginning to attain force in this country and Europe. These movements look to the nationalizing of all the means and processes of production and distribution, including the regulation of the supply of labor and capital and the fixing of wages and prices. American readers will be led to reflect whether or not the system of responsible government offers the same safeguards as our own against centralizing tendencies and movements.

As the book shows, the Australian Labor party, starting in 1901, at the inception of the Commonwealth, as a small centre party, became, in eight years, by the backing of organized Labor, the dominant party. During this period the Labor party evolved a definite programme, which received the name of "the new protection". The main feature of this programme was the control of all industrial operations by the federal Parliament, and, as necessary to this, the nationalization of all monopolies whether of land or of industry.

The Australian Constitution, however, like our own, places the control of all intrastate industrial operations in the states and reserves to them the residue of power. It was, therefore, at first attempted by the Labor party to bring about its programme by the use of the power of federal taxation. In 1906, this party secured the passage of an act by the federal Parliament imposing an excise tax on certain industries, which was to be remitted on proof to a federal commission, by these industries, that they had conformed to a certain standard of wages and to certain other conditions relating to price and absence of monopoly. In 1908, the High Court of Australia, in a suit brought before it involving the constitutionality of the act, held it unconstitutional, and the Labor party thenceforth began a movement to change the Constitution so as to permit the federal Parliament to put in force "the new protection" programme. So successful were they that at the session of 1910, acts were passed by the federal Parliament for changing the Constitution so as to permit the Parliament to regulate all trade and commerce; to create, dissolve, regulate, and control all corporations; to control all wages and settle all labor disputes; and to nationalize all monopolies (p. 253). These acts were, by their terms, to be submitted to referendum of the people of the states on April 26, 1911.

The book was published after this action was taken and before the date of the referendum, when Australia and the rest of the world were waiting with interest to see what disposition of the Constitution would be made by the people. Mr. Turner is evidently a conservative, who believes in the maintenance of the powers of the states, and in the rights of the individual according to the Anglo-Saxon sense. The last words of the book are: "The real solution of the future of Australia has been relegated to the people, whose decision on the 26th April will have an important and probably a lasting influence in making or marring the relations between the Commonwealth and the States." The verdict of the people of Australia, given through the referendum, was against the proposed changes in the Constitution.

This does not, of course, detract from the interest of the book. It should have a wide reading in this country.

A. H. SNOW.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

California under Spain and Mexico, 1535-1847: a Contribution toward the History of the Pacific Coast of the United States, based on Original Sources (chiefly Manuscript) in the Spanish and Mexican Archives and other Repositories. By IRVING BERTINE RICHMAN. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. xvi, 541.)

MR. RICHMAN'S book is the first history of California under Spain and Mexico to be published in the United States outside of San Francisco. Indeed the only work hitherto available on the history of the state is Professor Royce's volume in the *American Commonwealths* series, which is a study of a single decade designed to illustrate the philosophical ideas of its author. The larger works of Hubert Howe Bancroft and Theodore H. Hittell, published in San Francisco, have notable merits, but they are too extensive for the ordinary reader, and are now out of print. The way was open, therefore, for a survey, within a moderate compass, of the history of California. It has evidently been Mr. Richman's purpose to take advantage of this long-neglected opportunity; and beginning with the Spanish period, it seems to have been his plan to present at once a summary of previous results and an original contribution based upon manuscript materials hitherto inaccessible to students. The work was undertaken in an auspicious moment; for before the author had completed his self-imposed task it became possible for him to harvest the first fruits of the investigations conducted by Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, for the Carnegie Institution, in the archives of Mexico. The author has been equally fortunate in his publisher: the volume is well printed, is amply furnished with maps, and conveys an immediate impression of taste and scholarship.